

beginning by Archdiocesan Priests, Irish Christian Brothers, De La Salle Brothers, Franciscan Brothers and Priests, Marist Brothers, Xaverian brothers, Religious Sisters and scores of dedicated laymen and laywomen. Current members of this devoted staff are responsible for a 99 percent graduation rate. 96 percent of all Cardinal Hayes High School students go on to study at a college or university.

It must be noted also that Cardinal Hayes High School is one of a just few schools in the New York metropolitan area operating as a Cisco Networking Academy. This accreditation allows the school to provide a two-year course of study that prepares students for CCNA certification. CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) is a highly-regarded certification of networking and internetworking skills.

Mr. Speaker, young men from all walks of life make up the Cardinal Hayes student body. These young men learn, work, play, and worship with one another while providing mutual support and comradery as well. I take pride in saying that my son, Jose, graduated from Cardinal Hayes and remembers his high school alma mater fondly.

I am very proud to acknowledge this learning institution that has produced so many upstanding men that have, no doubt, gone on to benefit society. I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating 60 years of first-rate academic, social, and spiritual instruction in the heart of the Bronx at CHHS.

RECOGNIZING MS. JULIE ANN CRIPE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Julie Ann Cripe on being named Chairperson of the Board of Financial Women International, at the 79th Annual meeting being held in Williamsburg, Virginia, the week of September 22, 2001.

Financial Women International (FWI) is a professional association of women working together to achieve success in the financial services industry. Since its creation, Financial Women International has worked to empower women in all segments of the financial industry to attain their professional, economic, and personal goals. The association consists of more than 8,000 members representing the United States, Canada, Russia, Japan, and Mexico.

Ms. Cripe has been active in FWI since 1979, serving as President on the local and state levels before accepting positions at the international level. Aside from her work with the association, Ms. Cripe, is currently President and Director of OMNIBANK, N.A., where under her leadership the bank has grown rapidly to become one of the largest locally owned banks in Houston. Ms. Cripe has worked closely with the development of Small Business Administration loans at OMNIBANK, most recently closing a \$25 million dollar loan on a chemical plant in Sherman, Texas.

Along with serving as President and Director of OMNIBANK, N.A., Ms. Cripe has been very active in the Texas Bankers Association and the American Banking Association, particularly serving on the legislative and education com-

mittees. Presently, Ms. Cripe serves on the Board of the Education Foundation for the American Banking Association, and was an excellent spokesperson for the home equity bill.

Ms. Cripe has been an exceptional leader in the community, earning the respect of her peers and associates in the business and civic communities. She has contributed to the betterment of the Houston area, by serving on committees at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, M. D. Anderson Cancer Research Center, and the March of Dimes.

Again, I would like to take this time to congratulate Ms. Julie Ann Cripe on becoming Chairperson of the Board of Financial Women International and wish her continued success.

HONORING CHRISTIAN HEALTH CARE CENTER'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to the Christian Health Care Center for its 90th anniversary of service and care to northern New Jersey. The Christian Health Care Center, located in the town of Wyckoff, offers care for the elderly as well as short and long-term mental health services. All of this is done in a wonderful environment, led by Christian principles. Founded in 1911 and currently under the outstanding leadership of President and CEO Doug Struyk, the Center has evolved into dynamic and caring organization with state-of-the-art facilities, serving the surrounding community for generations. This weekend, the Center will have the opportunity to celebrate its accomplishments and stories of the past 90 years.

The mission of the Christian Health Care Center speaks to the good work done at this facility. The Center provides a continuum of high quality services consistent with the Christian principles on which the institution was founded. Long term care and mental health care are offered, as well as residential living in a compassionate loving environment. The Center consists of a 251 bed skilled nursing home, a 40 unit supportive senior housing complex, a residential living facility and a psychiatric hospital. Recently, construction was completed on an on-site day care center for the Center's care-providers. The Longview assisted living facility was also newly finished, which allowed the residential community to welcome an additional 80 residents to these state-of-the-art facilities. Such a tremendous number of lives are touched through the Christian Health Care Center.

This number also includes the friends and families of residents, for they can rest assured that their loved ones are in good hands with complete care. If you meet even one member of the staff at the Center or hear even one story from a resident, you will understand that the staff here is truly doing God's work-everyday. The philosophy by which the Center operates further testifies to this caring Christian spirit of the community: "the staff of nurses, doctors, program directors, aides and all others at the Center give unselfishly so that all of

our residents and patients know that they are cared for and loved." Their personal touch in caring for the elderly has moved many.

I speak from personal experience. My beloved mother, Margaret Scafati, was cared for with compassion and professionalism of the highest caliber at the Center. For this I am truly grateful.

Under the excellent guidance of Mr. Struyk and the caring of the wonderful employees, the Christian Health Care Center will continue to shine as one of the finest care facilities of its kind in our nation. This weekend we celebrate 90 years of excellence and look forward to many more. Our hearts and prayers are with those involved with this wonderful center.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FREEMYER

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share with the House and America, a statement by my friend David Freemyer. David is 9 years old and sent me the following speech about the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

"As we all know on September 11, 2001 terrorists hijacked four of our airplanes and crashed two of them into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon and one crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. This event has brought sadness to everyone and death to thousands of people. I ask myself why would anyone want to do such a thing. We have done no harm to any other country.

Not only have we done no harm, but we have helped all the countries that need our help and will still help any country that needs our help. We donate food and water and anything a country needs. And yet very few times has a country helped us. I'm not saying that all the other countries are bad. I'm just saying that just because we have a very strong military and that our country is very powerful that doesn't mean that we can do everything on our own. I have great respect for all the people from other countries that took time to go to church and pray for our country.

God Bless America!

David A. Freemyer"

I hope all Americans can somehow show their patriotism like my friend David.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE EICHLER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, George Eichler. Regretfully, George Eichler passed away on Friday, August 17, 2001, but he leaves us with a myriad of memories and lessons derived from his history of service and a legacy of championing important issues.

George was a life-long Democrat and a long-time labor leader in San Antonio. His tireless work on behalf of Democrats and in support of San Antonio working men and women is well recognized and respected within the

Democratic Party. George's dedication to service and his commitment to family and to fatherhood is a shining example of the life we should all aspire to.

His daughter, Vanessa Eichler, said of him "He was the perfect father. Everyone knows him for what he did for labor and the Democratic Party, but he taught us to enjoy life." I believe that through his actions George taught us all a little bit about life and the need to help one another.

George Eichler's involvement in the labor movement saw its beginnings in 1949, when George went to work as a bottle washer at the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio, Texas. Soon after beginning his work there, George joined the International Association of Brewery Workers, and quickly moved up the union leadership ranks to become the Associate Business Agent in 1960. In 1967, the International Association of Brewery Workers joined the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and George continued his leadership efforts, holding various local, State, and national level positions within the Teamsters organization throughout his career.

It was through his work as a labor leader that George also became well-known for his charitable contributions, selflessly dedicating his time and service to charitable organizations like Goodwill Industries and the United Way. From 1965 through 1974, George continued his commitment to service as Chair of the San Antonio AFL-CIO Council Pines Housing Trust, a program whose outstanding efforts in housing the handicapped was recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These local elderly and handicapped independent living programs are recognized as precursors to national handicapped housing initiatives.

George's work over the years also benefited the local Democratic Party and countless Democratic candidates, as he campaigned tirelessly during each campaign year. He also served as Democratic Precinct Chair, and as such attended many State and National Democratic Conventions.

I am proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and learn from George Eichler. I know his family will receive some comfort in the knowledge that George's memory will endure among all those he touched throughout his life.

HONORING BERINGER VINEYARDS ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th anniversary of Beringer Vineyards, located in St. Helena, Napa Valley, California.

Beringer Vineyards was founded in 1876, when Jacob Beringer and his brother, Frederick purchased a twenty-eight acre vineyard for \$14,500. One hundred and twenty-five years later, the winery is worth in excess of \$1.5 billion and is the oldest continuously operating winery in Napa Valley.

Beringer was not only a pioneer in the California wine industry, it is also a significant factor in the Napa Valley's emergence as one of

the world's premier wine-growing regions. Today, Beringer Vineyards continues its extraordinary tradition of viticulture innovation and winemaking expertise to consistently produce the highest quality wines.

Mr. Speaker, Beringer Vineyards not only produces outstanding wines, but its generosity in the community is unsurpassed. Beringer supports numerous important charities, including civic organizations and youth groups throughout Napa Valley and the State of California. This year, the majority of its donations are being made to Napa Valley Health Charities, which provides critically needed health care services to low-income persons.

To commemorate this important occasion, Winemaker Ed Sbragia, who is celebrating his 25th year as Winemaker at Beringer, has produced a very special 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from the original "Home Vineyard." As evidence of Beringer's continued tradition of excellence, Mr. Sbragia is the world's only winemaker to have both a red and a white wine named as Wine Spectator magazine's "1 Wine of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, Beringer was where I worked as a young man and I am particularly proud of this tremendous organization. At this time, it is appropriate that we honor and congratulate Beringer Vineyards for its many successes and contributions to our Napa Valley community for the past 125 years.

RECOGNIZING HEAR O' ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, in light of the tragedy that struck our nation September 11, 2001, I believe it's fitting to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O' Israel International Inc., which is currently sponsoring its National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month. This month long event is being conducted in conjunction with their ongoing campaign, "Listen to the Cries of the Children." Hear O' Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the physically challenged, the elderly, neglected children, and battered women across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month has been endorsed by Houston Mayor Lee Brown and every member of the City Council, which further demonstrates the high regard for Hear O' Israel in our community.

Hear O' Israel International Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational organization works to increase public awareness of those that are less fortunate. "Listen to the Cries of the Children" is designed to strengthen unity amongst families and further public awareness of the negative consequences that drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children.

National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month is a campaign to call attention to the plight of children who do not have access to adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care. As a symbol of compassion for suffering children, Hear O' Israel International Inc., en-

courages supporters to adopt a family or an individual in need as a gesture of support in resounding the alarm for those who have been forgotten and many times rejected by our communities.

Again, I would like to recognize Hear O' Israel International Inc., for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and extend my personal best wishes for a successful and rewarding campaign.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BOOKER T. SEARS, JR., D.D.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Booker T. Sears, a remarkable spiritual counselor and community leader, on his 16th anniversary as Pastor of Goodwill Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York.

Reverend Sears was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, as the eldest of four children born to the late Dr. and Mrs. Booker T. Sears Sr. Nurtured by a large family, Reverend Sears went on to pursue higher education in his hometown. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Benedict College and his Doctorate of Divinity degree from the Columbia Bible Institute. Reverend Sears spent 23 years pasturing congregations in South Carolina before bringing his gifts and compassion to the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, since his arrival to New York's religious community 16 years ago, Reverend Sears has left an undeniable mark. He is the Second Vice President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity, an active member of the United Missionary Baptist Association, the Empire Missionary Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., the Ministers Prayer Alliance, along with a number of other esteemed religious organizations and community organizations.

The man I am honoring today has been an example of leadership for his congregation and many community members. Worshipers at Goodwill Baptist Church describe Reverend Sears as not only their religious guide, but as their friend, confidant, and teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Booker T. Sears Jr., D.D. for his 16 years of dedicated service to the Goodwill Baptist Church congregation and South Bronx community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWARK BETH ISRAEL ON ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey as staff and supporters celebrate 100 years of service to our community. Newark